Esch, et al.

Atty. Dkt.: 21123/282409

## Remarks

In light of the above considerations, Applicants believe that the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (703) 905-2173.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Michael A. Sanzo Reg. No. 36,912

Attorney for Applicants

Date: November 8, 2001

1600 Tysons Boulevard McLean, VA 22102

(703) 905-2000